

nature; and it is on this point that the whole question of hermaphroditism or unisexuality must be decided. The testes of *Asellus aquaticus*, on the external resemblance of which to the supposed testes of his parasitic forms Mr. Bullar relies, have an unusually marked and characteristic histological structure. They contain very large mother cells, in which the long filaments of the developing spermatozoa are coiled in bundles. Although Mr. Bullar has examined his Isopods in all stages, and in the fresh as well as prepared conditions, he gives no evidence as to any such structure in the supposed testes of these animals: he merely says that the organs "are filled with a cellular blastema, from which *doubtless* the spermatozoa are developed."

It seems to me that the absence of positive evidence that the spermatozoa are thus developed constitutes a serious flaw in the chain of evidence by which Mr. Bullar seeks to establish his conclusion. Testis-tissue is not by any means a difficult object for histological observation; and since it is evident, from the detailed description which Mr. Bullar gives of the minute structure of the ovaries in his Isopods, that he has carefully studied the histology of their generative organs, he could hardly have overlooked definite testis-structure had such existed in the objects which he terms testes.

I cannot but consider that it will be more prudent to await further evidence before accepting as demonstrated the fact that the members of the subfamily of the Cymothoinæ alone amongst Isopods are hermaphrodite—although, were this conclusion confirmed, it would be of great interest, and might be considered as paralleled by such instances as the hermaphroditism of the Serranidæ amongst fishes.

XXIX.—*Descriptions of three Homopterous Insects in the Collection of the British Museum.* By ARTHUR GARDINER BUTLER, F.L.S.

PLATYPLEURA, Amyot & Serville.

Platypleura nicobarica, n. sp.

Allied to *P. fulviger* from the Philippines, but larger, with the tegmina longer, the whole of the spots crossing the coriaceous area testaceous, those crossing its apex smaller; the blackish transverse spots considerably smaller; wings longer, the subapical transverse fulvous fasciole replaced by three or

four decreasing longitudinal fulvous streaks; pronotum considerably broader, its lateral angles more oblique, and therefore more prominent. Length of body 10 lines, expanse of tegmina 3 inches 1 line.

Nicobars (3 examples).

Type, B.M.

We have three examples of *P. fulviger*; so that I am satisfied of the constancy of the characters by which the two species are separated.

COSMOSCARTA, Stål.

Cosmoscarta Buxtoni, n. sp.

General form of *C. xanthorhina*; above purplish black; head somewhat prominent, centrally grooved in front; ocelli small, placed in deep excavations on either side of a central carina, which runs to the back of the thorax, the latter granulose, barely wider than the closed tegmina, with a distinct marginal ridge, a feeble oblique depressed line on each side, near the posterior border; tegmina with the basal two fifths almost covered by a broad oblique ochreous band, which crosses the corium; a narrow, nearly perpendicular, transverse vermilion band just beyond the end of the corium; body below blackish piceous; legs chocolate-brown. Length 9 lines, expanse of tegmina 18 lines.

Sumatra.

Type, B.M.

This and the succeeding species were obtained by Mr. E. C. Buxton in his recent trip to Sumatra.

Cosmoscarta sumatrensis, n. sp.

Allied to *C. octopunctata*, but at once distinguished by the much greater width of the thorax and scutellum, more prominent head, duller coloration, the black ventral surface of the abdomen, as of the whole body below; above testaceous; thorax shining, very convex in the centre, subdiaphanous and depressed at the sides; tegmina crossed by black spots, as in strongly marked examples of *C. octopunctata*; legs testaceous. Length 10 lines, expanse of tegmina 20 lines.

Sumatra.

Type, B.M.

XXX.—*Notice of a Barbel from the Buffalo River, British Caffraria.* By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S.

MR. H. TREVELYAN has recently sent to the British Museum several specimens of a small species of barbel from the Buf-